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NEWSLETTER

A Bimonthly Newsletter for Economic Research Service Employees and Colleagues

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 5
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1991

ERS Activities in Eastern and Central Europe

ERS is involved in the challenge and excitement of transition in Eastern and Central Europe. During the past year, ERS has worked cooperatively with the ministries of agriculture in Poland, Hungary, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republics (formerly Czechoslovakia), and Bulgaria to develop programs to support their transitions to more market oriented economies. ERS is now beginning preliminary work with Albania.

ERS activities in Poland, Hungary, and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republics are focused on providing policymakers, farmers, and agricultural enterprises with timely, accurate information on market conditions so they can make better market-oriented decisions. ERS staff are working with counterparts in each country to develop their capacity to:

- produce and disseminate information on commodity and input markets (situation and outlook);
- conduct analysis of agricultural issues in a market environment (policy analysis); and
- provide analysis of key policy issues to decisionmakers.

Bulgaria and Albania need more direct policy assistance; so ERS has stationed Ronald Meekhof in Bulgaria for a year and sent Carl Mabbs-Zeno to Albania for 6 weeks.

During the past year, ERS's focus has been primarily on Poland and Hungary. In each country, real progress has been made. In Poland, USDA's assistant secretary for economics Bruce Gardner and an ERS team helped identify the

institutions needed to create market-oriented reporting and analysis. Representatives from these institutions came to Washington for training and for collaborative planning to identify priorities and schedules. Situation and outlook work was subsequently initiated for grains, pork, and dairy, with reports on these commodities due for release in October.

In Hungary, a similar process was followed: key institutions were identified and a joint training/planning session was held. Wheat was defined as the initial focus of situation and outlook work, with a report scheduled to be published in October.

ERS's work with the Czech and Slovak Federal Republics is still in the initial phase. The major institutions involved have been identified and a joint training/planning session is scheduled for this fall.

In 1992, ERS will:

- Host a seminar on agricultural policy for senior policymakers from Eastern and Central Europe, followed by in-country seminars for midlevel officials;
- Work jointly with analysts in Poland and Hungary to conduct applied research on their top priority policy issues;
- Initiate situation and outlook training in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republics;
- Publish situation and outlook reports in Poland, Hungary, and possibly the Czech and Slovak Federal Republics; and
- Cooperate with USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service to develop improved data systems more relevant to a market environment.



Michael Herlihy accepts the AAEA Quality of Communication Award on behalf of the other ERS recipients.

Four ERS Publications Receive AAEA Award

A set of four briefing booklets received a Quality of Communication Award at the American Agricultural Economics Association's annual meeting in Manhattan, Kansas. The booklets are *The Basic Mechanisms of Japanese Farm Policy: Rice Price Support and Beef Import Restrictions* (MP-1478) by William Coyle and William Hudson (publications design consultant), *The Basic Mechanisms of European Community Farm Policy* (MP-1485) by Walter Gardiner and William Hudson, and long and short versions of *Multilateral Trade Reform: What the GATT Negotiations Mean to U.S. Agriculture* (Unnumbered) by Michael Herlihy, Stephen Magiera, Carl Mabbs-Zeno, Jerry Sharples,

In this issue . . .

Administrator's Letter, 3
Current Research, 4
Personnel Notes, 5
Highlights of Staff Activities, 6

William Hudson, and Jonathan Harsch (publications design consultant).

The briefing booklets use special graphics aimed at helping the reader to quickly understand complex economic issues. The first two booklets provide an overview of Japanese and European Community agricultural structures and policies. The third and fourth booklets provide a concise summary of economic trends in U.S. agriculture and outline major policy alternatives. In addition, Praveen Dixit, Stephen Magiera, Patrick O'Brien, and Katherine Reichelderfer were contributing authors to *Agricultural Policies in a New Decade* (edited by Kristen Allen, Resources for the Future), a book which also received an AAEA Quality of Communication Award.

ERS Staff Participate in AAEA Meeting

At the annual meeting of the American Agricultural Economics Association in Manhattan, Kansas, August 4-7, ERS staff participated as follows:

Selected paper authors: Margot Anderson, Carlos Arnade (2), Andrew Bernat, Richard Brazee, Theodore Covey, Mark Denbaly, Praveen Dixit (3), Lawrence Duewer, John Dyck, Elizabeth Frazao, George Frisvold (2), Joseph Glauber, William Hahn (2), Daniel Hellerstein, David Henderson, Kuo Huang, Wen-Yuan Huang, John Jinkins, Martin Johnson, Bruce Larson, David Letson, Stephen Martinez, Kenneth Mathews, Ian McCormick, Richard Nehring, Tim Osborn, Janet Perry, Albert Reed, Marc Ribaudo, Vernon Roningen (2), Ann Seitzinger, Parveen Setia, David Skully, Matthew Spilker, Noel Uri, Harry Vroomen, Shwu-Eng Webb, and Marca Weinberg.

Symposia organizers, moderators, presenters, and discussants: Nicole Ballenger (2), Christine Bolling (2), Douglas Bowers (2), William Coyle, William Crosswhite (2), Stan

Daberkow, Peter DeBral, Mark Denbaly, John Dyck (2), David Ervin (2), Charles Handy, James Horsfield (2), Bengt Hyberg, John Jinkins (2), James Johnson, Mack Leath, William Lin (2), Carl Mabbs-Zeno, Richard Magleby, Lester Myers, Edward Reinsel (2), Marc Ribaudo, Bob Robinson, Gerald Schluter, David Stallings, Lloyd Teigen, and Alan Webb.

Session presiders, presenters, and moderators: Andrew Bernat, Stephen Crutchfield, David Ervin, John Lee (2), John McClelland, John Miranowski, Tanya Roberts, John Schaub, and Shwu-Eng Webb.

Poster paper authors: Mary Ahearn, Stephen Crutchfield, Karl Gertel, Don Goss, LeRoy Hansen, Fred Hines, Robert Kellogg, David Letson, Felix Llacuna, Margaret Maizel, Liana Neff, Steven Neff, Janet Perry, Terri Raney (2), Marc Ribaudo, Denise Rogers, Vernon Roningen, Gerald Schluter, Parveen Setia, Judith Sommer, John Sullivan, and Ann Vandeman.

Lindsay Mann (EMS Information Division) represented ERS at its exhibit.

Rural Sociological Society Meets

"Rural Divisions of Labor: Comparative Perspectives" was the theme of the Rural Sociological Society's annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, August 19-21. ERS staff participated as follows:

Paper authors: Laarni Dacquel, Paul Frenzen, Molly Killian, Barry Krissoff, Felicia LeClere, Gene Mathia, Deborah Tootle (2), and Leslie Whitener.

Paper discussant: Calvin Beale.

Tokyo Hosts XXI ICAE Conference

"Sustainable Agricultural Development: The Role of International Cooperation" was the theme of the XXI International Conference of Agricultural

Economists held in Tokyo, Japan, August 22-29. The ICAE is the triennial meeting of the International Association of Agricultural Economists. The following ERS staff participated (several other ERS staff coauthored the papers that were presented by the ERS participants):

Invited paper discussant: Mary Ahearn.

Contributed paper session chairperson: John Lee.

Contributed paper authors: Praveen Dixit (2), Vernon Roningen, and Amy Sparks.

Contributed paper discussants: Mary Burfisher, Hyunok Lee, Bradley McDonald, and James Stout.

Contributed papers session rapporteurs: Sophia Huang and Daniel Pick.

Minisymposia organizers/chairpersons: Mary Ahearn, Carol Goodloe, Terri Raney, and Robert Reinsel.

Minisymposia consultants: Mary Burfisher, Carol Goodloe, Bradley McDonald, Tanya Roberts, Hosein Shapouri, and Francis Tuan.

Minisymposia rapporteurs: Mary Ahearn and Hosein Shapouri.

See TOKYO HOSTS, p. 4

ERS Newsletter

Vol. 9, No. 5, Oct./Nov. 1991

Editors:

Verla Rape and Lindsay Mann

Layout and Design:

Susan Yanero

Publication Assistant:

Verna Blake and Gwen Matlock

Photos (unless credited):

Paul Flaim

Division Representatives:

William Anderson, Martha Frederick, Charles Hallahan, William Kost, Felice Marlor, and Loretta Miller

The *ERS Newsletter* is published bimonthly by the Economic Research Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and distributed free to ERS employees, colleagues, and retirees. Send subscription requests and address changes to: *ERS Newsletter*, ERS/USDA, Rm. 1212, 1301 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20005-4788 (phone 202-219-0310, fax 202-219-0044).

Associate Administrator's Letter—*The Challenges Ahead*

I am greatly pleased to be back with ERS. A perverse quirk of human nature sometimes prevents us from recognizing the value of where we work. Once outside ERS, I quickly realized how much the agricultural community relies on the data, information, and expertise uniquely available from ERS. Not a commodity, agricultural market, resource, policy matter, or emerging issue could I in my absence or can I now identify for which an expert does not exist in ERS. The breadth of ERS's coverage is remarkable; the depth of knowledge embodied in its human capital exceptional. Outsiders find that good, sound, well-documented information, analysis, and assistance are easily obtained from a highly professional research and analytical staff backed up by an informed and helpful support staff.

With all this to commend ERS, the times and circumstances in which ERS operates may be changing faster than we have adjusted to them. The public has exhibited new and different concerns about the agricultural sector. Rapid shifts on the international scene are generating additional new issues and demands for information, analysis, and assistance. These trends, coupled with the probability of decreasing real budgets, create a substantial challenge for ERS. Similar circumstances are motivating change, sometimes of a painful nature, within the land-grant university system with which we frequently work. How can we adjust to best advantage?

We need to decide who the audiences for our work are or should be, how their needs are changing, and how well our products satisfy them. We need to ensure that those products for which ERS is not the sole source will complement rather than duplicate information available elsewhere. We will have to prioritize an ever-expanding range of potential activities and consider carefully what our choices imply for tradeoffs between depth and breadth, short-term needs and longer run objectives, and expertise and flexibility.

Our recruitment aims must be towards building a work force that reflects the increasing diversity of our work and its audience. For the sake of both flexibility and diversity, we may want to consider expanding the use of visiting scholars and temporary employment, initiating a postdoctoral program, and forging closer working relations with our collaborators through cooperative research agreements. At the same time, current and potential permanent employees need to possess skills and interests that encourage a broad ERS perspective and facilitate adjustment to changing demands.

Clientele definition, publications policy, priority setting in a declining real budget scenario, and recruitment and work force diversity are some of the issues that the division directors, the administrator, and I will be tackling head-on over the coming months. I hope you will offer your thoughts on these and other issues you can identify as critical to ERS's future. Pass your ideas to your division director, drop me a note, give me a call, stop me in my wanderings through the building, or come visit with me. Your input is welcomed and will be greatly appreciated.



Katherine Reichelderfer

Poster paper authors: Mary Ahearn (2), Mary Burfisher (2), Carol Goodloe, Sophia Huang, Chinkook Lee, Hyunok Lee, Bradley McDonald (2), Richard Nehring (2), Daniel Pick (2), Robert Reinsel, and James Stout (2).

Bruce Greenshields organized the contributed papers competition and sessions.

World Agriculture Highlights Agriculture and the Environment

World Agriculture is a quarterly magazine published by ERS devoted to how the world economy affects agricultural supply and demand, with an emphasis on implications for global and U.S. agricultural trade.

The most recent issue of *World Agriculture* (Issue 63, June 1991) explores some of the agricultural trade and policy implications of various environmental issues. Contributions include "Animal Welfare Legislation Alters European Egg Production" by Gary Vocke, "The Expanding Role of Environmental Interests in Agricultural Policy" by Katherine Reichelderfer, "Agricultural Trade Implications of Environmental Management" by James Tobey, "Impact of Environmental Safeguards on the Livestock Sector" by Gary Vocke, and "Australia's Environmental Degradation from Agriculture: Lingering Effects and Greater Visibility" by Bengt Hyberg and Sean Pascoe.

Other issues covered in Issue 63 include "World Economic Conditions" by Alberto Jerardo, "Wool Markets in Disarray" by Fawzi Taha, "Chilean Fruit Industry Thriving" by Amy Sparks, "World Fertilizer Use Continues Up" by Francis Urban, and "Government Intervention in South Korean Agriculture" by Albert Evans.

Current Research

Sustainable Agriculture Research Underway

As outlined in the 1990 farm legislation, USDA and the Environmental Protection Agency are developing a major research effort on sustainable agriculture. The project, "Agriculture in Concert with the Environment," will look at the local, regional, national, and international implications of moving toward a more sustainable agricultural sector. The project's goal is to develop the capacity to provide estimates of probable national and regional economic, environmental, and social effects that result from adopting sustainable farming practices and systems.

The project will involve ERS researchers, other USDA agencies, EPA, and numerous universities and private research organizations. Economic effects to be studied include changes in global competitiveness; location of crop and livestock production; farm income by region; structure of rural communities; prices of commodities, foods, and farm inputs; costs of Federal farm programs; and external costs, such as municipal costs to clean up water supplies. Gregory Gajewski (219-0888) is coordinating ERS's involvement in the 3-year project.

A number of regional and local research efforts will be designed to fit together to produce estimates of the effects of sustainable agriculture at the national and international levels. ERS researchers will assess existing data sources and help collect and analyze new data. They will also study appropriate farm-level production relations. Analyses will be conducted at the farm, regional, and national levels to estimate how sustainable farming would alter the supply of agricultural commodities and the demand for various farm inputs. Farm and regional models will be

used to measure the indirect and induced effects of adopting sustainable farming practices. The implications for farm income, farm program costs, U.S. trade flows, rural economies, and the environment will be included in the scope of the work.

Rural Education Issues Studied

Many feel the Nation has an education crisis and that the low quantity and quality of workforce education are hampering the economy in the face of heightened international economic competition.

As part of ERS's ongoing research in rural education, *Education and Rural Development: Strategies for the 1990's* (AGES 9153), coordinated by David McGranahan, concludes that, within the context of rural America, improving schools is essential for rural youth but cannot be expected to lead to rural economic development. In fact, having a highly educated workforce has not improved the chances of employment growth in rural areas over the past two decades. Rural communities appear to have been more hampered by their small size and remoteness than by the education levels of their workforces. Today's young rural adults have less education than those 10 years ago, in part because better educated young rural adults migrated to urban areas in the 1980's to take advantage of the greater job opportunities.

Other recent ERS analysis on school financing, as reported by Anicca Jansen in "Rural Counties Lead Urban in Education Spending, But Is that Enough?" (*Rural Development Perspectives*, Vol. 7, No. 1, Oct.-Jan., 1991), shows that while average expenditures per pupil in nonmetro counties exceed those in metro counties, more variation exists among nonmetro counties within any particular State. The counties with the lowest per pupil expenditures, therefore, are

usually nonmetro. Further ERS research suggests that with lower property values, rural school districts cannot raise the per pupil amounts from local property taxes that urban school districts can. Some States allow local option sales taxes, but this is not an option that favors rural areas any more than do property taxes. Rural shoppers tend to go to metro or large nonmetro centers for many of their purchases, in effect helping fund the educational system in those areas where sales tax revenue is used to finance education. Rural residents generally have lower incomes than urban residents, and, even if they shop locally, they spend less and generate less sales tax revenue.

ERS's ongoing research program on rural education has produced 14 reports over the past 5 years. Linda Ghelfi (219-0547) has summarized ERS's work in "A Synopsis of Recent ERS Rural Education Research," in *Proceedings of the Southern Regional Information Exchange Group 531*, Southern Rural Development Center, Atlanta, Ga. (forthcoming).

Personnel Notes

Kramer Is New RTD Associate Director

Carol Kramer is the new associate director, Resources and Technology Division. She will be responsible for developing RTD's food safety program and coordinating cross-cutting research issues within RTD and with other ERS divisions. Kramer was most recently a fellow with the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy, Resources for the Future, Washington, D.C. Since

1987, she has been head, Food and Nutrition Policy Program.

Kramer's areas of specialization include food and agricultural policy, food safety, and consumer economics. Her work has been recognized through a number of honors, including a Kellogg National Fellowship Award, the Applied Consumer Research Award, and an AAEA Quality of Communications Award (Honorable Mention).

Before joining Resources for the Future, Kramer held academic appointments at Kansas State University, Michigan State University, and Cornell University, and worked for USAID in Senegal. Kramer has an M.S. and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Michigan State University.

Gajewski Is Named CED Section Leader

Gregory Gajewski is the new leader, Aquaculture and Alternative Products Section, Specialty Agriculture Branch, Commodity Economics Division. The section is responsible for

monitoring, analyzing, and reporting on supply, demand, and price developments in the U.S. and world markets for aquaculture and other new or nontraditional products.

Gajewski joined ERS in 1985 as a financial economist, Finance and Tax Branch, Agriculture and Rural Economy Division, where he did research on agricultural commercial banking and farm and rural credit issues. He served on the editorial board of *Rural Development Perspectives* during 1987-89 and was editor of *Agricultural Outlook* during 1989-91.

Prior to joining ERS, Gajewski taught economics at George Washington University, George Mason University, and Georgetown

University. He also worked as an associate economist with the President's Minimum Wage Study Commission during 1980-81, estimating the inflationary effects of increasing the minimum wage.

Gajewski has a B.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Washington University, all in economics. He has received numerous ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards and USDA Certificates of Merit.

Smith Is LEGIS Fellow

Mark Smith has been selected as a legislative fellow under a program designed to

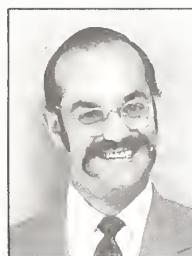
provide Federal employees a working knowledge of Congressional operations. The 6-month program provides a unique opportunity for ERS participants to view debate on new farm-related legislation from the legislative perspective.

Smith, whose detail to Capital Hill is from July to December 1991, is working as a staff economist on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Thus far, his work has focused on legislation affecting the dairy sector, on technical amendments to the farm legislation, and on forestry issues.

Glauber Detailed to CEA

Joseph Glauber was recently named senior staff economist for agriculture and international trade, Council of Economic Advisers. He succeeds Nicole Ballenger who returned to ERS.

Glauber's responsibilities will focus on agricultural and nonagricultural



trade issues, including participation on the U.S. agricultural negotiating team in the North American free trade agreement talks with Canada and Mexico. He will also be responsible for domestic agricultural issues.

Glauber joined ERS in 1984 and most recently has been deputy director for special projects in ERS's Commodity Economics Division. He has received two ERS Excellence Awards—one for outstanding research in assessing the budgetary impacts of generic certificates and one for outstanding staff analysis in assessing marketing loan program options. He also has received an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for staff analysis supporting USDA officials in the development of the 1990 farm bill.

Claffey Named Agricultural Outlook Editor

Barbara Claffey is the new editor of *Agricultural Outlook*. Since



joining ERS in 1980, Claffey has been a commodity and cross-commodity analyst. She has coordinated the rice situation and outlook report

and worked on a broad range of domestic staff analyses. Recently, she has worked on a number of trade issues, including the impacts of the Uruguay Round and North American Free Trade Agreement. During 1989/90, Claffey was detailed to the Council of Economic Advisers as a staff economist and worked on agricultural, macroeconomic, and international trade issues.

Claffey has a B.A. in economics from Oswego State College, an M.S. in agricultural economics from Clemson University, and has completed all requirements but dissertation for a Ph.D. in agricultural economics at the University of Maryland.

Highlights of Staff Activities

Agriculture and Rural Economy Division

At a Western Agricultural Economics Association meeting in Portland, Oreg., **Robert Collender** presented a paper, "Economic Efficiency of Farm Credit System Associations" (coauthored by **Richard Nehring**, RTD, and **Agapi Somwaru**, DSC); **Mark Denbaly** presented a paper, "Dynamics of Relative Commodity Spot Prices: An Application to the Wheat Market"; Denbaly also discussed a paper, "Further Evidence of Commodity Price Dynamics"; and **Kenneth Erickson** presented a paper, "Rates of Return in the Farm and Nonfarm Sectors: How Do They Compare?" • **Mary Ahearn** and **Janet Perry** participated in a Strategies and Agendas for the Rural Social Sciences workshop, in Kansas City, Mo. • at a National Institute on Social Work and Human Services in Rural Areas meeting in Nacogdoches, Tex., **Elizabeth Dagata** presented a paper, "Intergenerational Poverty in Metro and Nonmetro Areas," and **Robert Hoppe** presented a paper, "The Volatile Farm Poverty Rate: What Does It Mean?" • **Ronald Babula** presented a paper, "Dynamic Interactions among U.S. Employment and Selected Unemployment Measures: An Urban-Rural Comparison," at a Southeast Institute of Management Sciences meeting in Myrtle Beach, S.C. • **Babula** also presented a paper, "Using Dynamic Interactions to Aid Forecasts: The Case of Selected Urban/Rural Employment Measures," and **Ralph Monaco** presented a paper, "Developing an Effective Forecasting Program: An Economic Approach," at a Federal Forecasters Conference in Washington, D.C. • **Thomas Carlin**, **James Duffield**, and **Leslie Whitener** participated in a Farm

Labor Training Workshop sponsored by USDA's National Agricultural Statistical Service, in Houston, Tex. • **Douglas Duncan** presented a paper, "Potential Impact of Deposit Insurance Reform on Agricultural Banks," and **Steven Koenig** presented a paper, "Farm Mortgage Volume: What is Available for Farmer Mac?," at an NC-161 regional research committee meeting on "Financing Agriculture in a Changing Environment," in St. Louis, Mo. • **Anne Effland** presented a paper, "Soil Geomorphology Studies in the U.S. Soil Survey Program" (coauthored by **William Effland**, Federal Programs Corporation), at a History of Agriculture and the Environment symposium in Washington, D.C. • **Kenneth Hanson** presented a paper, "Alternative Agricultural Production Systems in the USDA/ERS CGE Model," at an Applied General Equilibrium Modeling meeting in Laxenburg, Austria • **Anicca Jansen** presented a paper, "Does Decentralization Control Local Government Spending? A Test of the Leviathan Hypothesis," at a joint meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning and Association of European Schools of Planning International Congress in Oxford, U.K. • **Molly Killian** presented a paper, "A Commuting-Based Definition of Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Local Labor Markets in the United States," at an American Statistical Association meeting in Atlanta, Ga. • **Chinkook Lee** presented a paper, "Recent Developments in the Construction of Input-Output Tables with Use and Make Matrices: An Application to U.S. Agriculture," at a Canadian Agricultural Economics and Farm Management Society meeting, in Fredericton, N.B. • **Ralph Monaco** presented a paper, "Recent Macroeconomic Developments and Their Impact on Agriculture," at a Northeast Agriculture and Resource Economics Association meeting, in Durham, N.H. • at an American Political Science Association meeting in Washington, D.C.,

Richard Reeder presented a paper, "Enterprise Zones: Assessing Their Rural Development Potential" (coauthored by Kenneth Robinson, RTD), and David Sears organized and moderated a panel on "Rural Development Strategies that Work" • Carolyn Rogers participated in a Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, in Bethesda, Md. • Rogers also participated in a Measuring the Health and Health Care of the Aging symposium, in Rockville, Md. • at a State Rural Development Council meeting in Boise, Idaho, David Sears spoke on the choices that the State council must make when organizing for rural development, and Sears, Norman Reid, and Thomas Rowley hosted the last in a series of miniconferences on "The Foundations of Rural Development Policy" • Peter Stenberg presented a paper, "The Effect of Higher Education on the Electrical Machinery Industry," at a Mid-Continent Regional Science Association meeting, in Chicago, Ill. • and Deborah Tootle presented a paper, "Underemployment, Competitive Effects, and the Structure of Local Opportunities: Assessing the Direct and Indirect Effects of Black Population Concentration," at an American Sociological Society meeting, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division

Edward Cook presented a paper, "Soviet and East European Agriculture," at a NATO conference in Brussels, Belgium • Brian D'Silva traveled to the Sudan and other East African countries to collect information and advise government officials on approaches to improve the area's food and relief situation • Kenneth Gray is now traveling in the Russian Federation at the request of the Agrarian Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences to observe the process of farm privatization in

Siberia, the Urals, and Volga regions • Michael Herlihy and Mary Ann Normile traveled to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republics as part of the ERS institution-building project in Eastern Europe • Martin Johnson traveled to Mexico City to meet with researchers on pesticide regulations • Barry Krissoff, Liana Neff, and Constanza Valdes traveled to Mexico to collect information and participate in meetings on free trade arrangements between Mexico and the United States • Mark Lundell participated in an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development meeting on the rural-urban, north-south (RUNS) world general equilibrium model, in Paris, France • Daniel Pick received the Western Agricultural Economics Association's Outstanding Published Research Award, in Portland, Oreg. • Mathew Shane and Ronald Trostle (CED) spent a month in Indonesia at the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture to help formalize a new long-term agricultural plan • Karen Thierfelder presented a paper, "Efficiency Wage Theory and Trade Models: A General Equilibrium Analysis," at an International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis task force meeting, in Laxenburg, Austria • and Mark Wenner is in Morocco training Moroccan graduates from U.S. institutions on applied economic research in a government setting.

Commodity Economics Division

Edward Allen spoke on soft red winter wheat quality issues at a National Association of Wheat Growers meeting, in Washington, D.C. • at a Western Agricultural Economics Association meeting in Portland, Oreg., Mark Ash and Stephanie Mercier spoke on ERS's grain quality work, and Bengt Hyberg moderated a symposium, "The Effect of Grain Quality on U.S. Competitiveness in International

Trade" • Peter Buzzanell presented a paper, "Mexico's Sugar Industry in Transition—Implications for Sweetener Trade with the United States," at an International Sweetener Symposium, in Dillon, Colo. • Verner Grise spoke on ERS research proposals at a Tobacco Marketing Cost Study Committee meeting, in Asheville, N.C. • Linwood Hoffman, James Miller, and Shayle Shagam traveled to Poland to develop and implement a situation and outlook program for the Polish agricultural sector • Allen Johnson and Mack Leath participated in a U.S. Information Agency-sponsored workshop on "Market Forces and American Agriculture," in Washington, D.C. • T.Q. Hutchinson participated in a Transportation Research Forum Executive Committee meeting, in Washington, D.C. • Lester Myers spoke on a 10-year comprehensive plan for nutrition monitoring at an Interagency Board for Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research meeting at the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, in Washington, D.C. • Myers also spoke on dairy advertising effectiveness at a National Dairy Promotion and Research Board meeting, in Lake Placid, N.Y. • Patrick O'Brien spoke on grain trade and quality issues at a Federal Grain Inspection Service Advisory Board meeting, in Washington, D.C. • Parveen Setia presented a paper, "Potential Ban of Selected Pesticides: Economic Implications for U.S. Agriculture," at an American Chemical Society meeting in New York, N.Y. • and Larry Van Meir spoke on the feed grain outlook at a Western States Outlook Conference, in Ft. Collins, Colo.

Resources and Technology Division

Douglas Beach, Herman Delvo, Wen Huang, and Merritt Padgett participated in a pretest of the Fruit and Nut Chemical Use Survey, in Florida, Georgia, Michigan, and

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Washington • Stan Daberkow presented a paper, "Agricultural Input Price Perspective" (coauthored by Harold Taylor), at a Midwest Outlook Conference sponsored by the Cooperative Research Service, in Madison, Wisc. • Karl Gertel presented a paper, "Structural Models and Some Automated Alternatives for Forecasting Farmland Prices" (coauthored by Linda Atkinson, DSC), at a Federal Forecasters Conference in Washington, D.C. • Robert Kellogg spoke on USDA's Water Quality Area Study Project with staff of the Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program, in Raleigh, N.C., at a National Center for Resource Innovations/Chesapeake Bay Technical Advisory Committee meeting in Annapolis, Md., and in a session on "Pesticides in Ground and Surface Water: Integration of Programs to Address National Conditions," at an American Water Resources Association meeting in New Orleans, La. • Kellogg also

participated in a USDA Water Quality Regionalization Workshop in Morris, Minn. • C.S. Kim presented a paper, "Policy Implications of a Water Quality Constrained Dynamic Model of Nitrogen Fertilizer Use" (coauthored by John Hostetler), at a Canadian Agricultural Economics and Farm Management Society meeting in Fredericton, N.B. • Richard Magleby participated in a workshop for project coordinators involved in the President's Water Quality Initiative, in St. Louis, Mo. • John Reilly presented a paper, "Modeling Global Biomass Supply," at a Global Biomass Workshop, in Lexington, Ky. • Carmen Sandretto presented a paper, "Evolution of Conservation, Resource Protection, and Water Quality Efforts" (coauthored by William Crosswhite), at a Soil and Water Conservation Society meeting, in Lexington, Ky. • and Gene Wunderlich participated in the final conference of the Social Science in

Agriculture Agenda Project, in Kansas City, Mo.

Data Services Center

Jack Angle presented a paper, "The Analytic Solution of the Inequality Process," at an American Sociological Association meeting, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Office of the Administrator

Bruce Greenshields was appointed editor-in-chief of *Agricultural Economics*, the journal of the International Association of Agricultural Economists • James Horsfield participated in an American Statistical Association meeting in Atlanta, Ga. • John Lee participated in the final conference of the Social Sciences in Agriculture Agenda Project, in Kansas City, Mo. • and Lee was elected president of the AAEA Foundation Governing Board.